The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Monday December 28. to Thursday December 31. 1696.

Messina, *November* 19. N. S.

ON the 13th and 14th instant arrived here the Turkey Convoy, under Command of Commodore *Mody*; consisting of 9 Men of War, two Prizes, which they took from the French in the *Levant*, and are now laden from *Scanderoon* and *Smirna*, and 12 Merchant-ships, *viz.* the *Turkey Merchant*, the *Holder-Frigat*, the *Mary Rose*, the *Rose*, and the *Joseph*, from *Scanderoon*, the *Wimbleton*, the *Popler*-Frigat, the *Josiah*, and the *Lambert*, from *Smirna*; and the *Hopeful Jacob*, the *Providence*, and the *Lion*, from *Zant*. And having here supplied themselves with Water and fresh Provisions, they departed the 17th with a fair Wind for *England*.

Venice, *Dec.* 21. The Preparations are continued, in order to augment the Forces of this State, both by Land and Sea, against the next Summer. Several new Men of War that are building in the Arsenal, will be ready to be Launched in a short time. We have no fresh Letters from the *Levant*.

Madrid, *Decemb.* 5. The King of *Spain*'s Fever returned again the 3d instant, and His Catholick Majesty had another Fit yesterday; The continuance of his Illness makes him very weak. The Queen is perfectly well. They write from *Malaga* of the 27th past, that a Dutch Privateer of 44 Guns came in there two days before, who had retaken off the South Cape the *Danby*-Galley of *Bristol*, from *Newfound-Land*, and a *Hamburger* bound to *Seville*, and sent them both to *Cadiz*. The said Privateer was gone out again to Cruize about the *Streights* Mouth. The *Moors* continue before *Ceuta*.

Corunna, *Dec.* 23. The *Spanish-Alliance* Packet-Boat arrived here the 20th instant in 5 days from *Falmouth*; the Commander says, He met the day before, about 12 Leagues off Cape *Ortegal*, the *Bourdeux-Factor*, Capt. *Till* Commander, bound to *Virginia*, who came from *England* with the *Streights* Convoy, and was separated from them about 100 Leagues to the Westward of *Scilly* in bad Weather; and at the same time lost his Main-Mast; The Captain of the Packet-Boat gave him all the Assistance he could, and spared him a Pilot, but the Wind coming Southerly and blowing hard, they parted. They write from *Lisbon* of the 8th, that the Weather had been very tempestuous for several days together, during which a *Leghorn* Ship of 60 Guns was cast away on that Coast, and 60 of her Men lost. From *O-Porto* of the 15th they advise, That on the 9th they had there a very violent Storm; which did much Damage in the Country; and several Ships were lost on the Coast: A French Ship from *Martinico*, of 24 Guns, richly laden, was cast away near the Bar; and at *Viana* a *Portuguese* Ship, called the *St. John Baptist*, bound from *London* to *Lisbon*, drove from her Anchors, and fell foul of a Merchant-ship commanded by Capt. *Wade*, from *Newfoundland*, and both Ships were lost; Capt. *Wade* and some Men drowned, but most of the Goods saved.

Vienna, *Dec.* 22. Most of the General Officers that served in the Imperial Army in *Italy*, are come hither, but have sent their Equipages towards *Germany*, where they will be employed the next Campaign: Part of the Imperial Troops, which return from the *Milanese*, are arrived within the Emperor's Hereditary Territories, and the rest follow. The Prince of *Vaudi*, who assisted on the Emperor's Part in the Negotiation about the Neutrality of *Italy*, is on his return, and expected here in few days. Count *Guido* of *Starremberg* is arrived here from *Essecke*, and has given the Emperor an account of the good Posture he left things in on the Frontiers, which, by the care that is taken, are sufficiently secured against the Enemies Excursions during the Winter. The Letters from *Turkey* say, the Grand Signor has declared that he will go into the Field again the next Summer; and that he has sent to the Bassa's of the several Provinces to raise all the Men they can for the War: The same advices add, That the *Turks* are very much alarmed by the great Preparations of the *Muscovites*, and do particularly apprehend the Depredations they may commit on the *Black Sea*, for which purpose the Czar has caused about 100 small Vessels to be built. The States of *Silesia* are now assembled, to raise Money for the War. Count *Harrach*, whom the Emperor is sending to *Spain*, to take care of his Interests at that Court, will set out the next Week. Some of Prince *Lewis* of *Baden*'s Servants are already arrived, and he is shortly expected.

Francfort, *Dec.* 30. The Deputies of the Six Circles assembled here, continue their Conferences with great Application; and it is not doubted but their Project of Establishing an Army of 40000 Foot, and 20000 Horse and Dragoons, for their Defence, both in Times of War and Peace, will have the desired Effect. The Elector of *Mentz*, and Landtgrave of *Hesse Cassell*, have taken all possible Care to secure the *Bergstraat*, and those Parts, against any design the French may have on that side; and since the Duke of *Wirtembergh* (formerly Administrator) who commands in Prince *Lewis* of *Baden*'s absence, continues ill, General *Tourgen*, Governor of *Mentz*, is appointed to command the German Troops posted in the Lines that have been lately cast up for Security of the Country, and he will repair thither if, on the first notice of the Enemies Motion.

Cologne, *Jan.* 1. The Deputies that are now met at *Francfort*, are those of the Circles of *Bavaria*, *Franconia*, *Suabia*, the *Upper* and *Lower Rhine*, and *Westphalia*; as also from the Electors and several other Princes of the Empire. The French Preparations giving a Jealousie of their having some Design this way, the Garisons of *Bon* and this City are reinforc'd by the Troops of the Neighbouring Circles. We have advice, that my Lord *Galway* arrived